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POCAHONTAS COUNTY
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Chapter 5 section 1c

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

I have not been fortunate enough to find the names of any magazines that were read or received by the people of Pocahontas, but when I looked through the old wills and bills of sale, I did find the names of some books that they owned, and of course the name of the people who owned them. From the inclosed list you can see that the most of them were either text books or religious books. I was however rather surprised at some of the text books that they owned for I had been lead to believe that they were interested only in the three R's, and of course in spelling.

James Cooper, in will dated 1844, " To my wife Nancy Cooper my family Bible during her life time, and then to be left to my daughter Malinda. The remainder of the books to be equally divided between the balance of the heirs."

In 1849, William Young bequeathed to his wife one book case and a small library of books which were valued by the appraisers at $35.00. None of them were named.

Thomas Gammon-1852- one book case and the following books
Encyclopedia Geography-3 Vols., Constitution of the States,
Wesley--Phillosephy 2 Vols. Latin Dictionary,
Randolph's Reports, History, 19 other books.

John Young--will 1843--To my son John Young the 1st. and

3rd. volumns of Clark's Commentary, also 1st. and 3rd. vols. of Wesley's Sermons. To my daughter Jane Cochran, Woods Dictionary in two volumns, Simpsons Plea for Religion, and Fletcher's Appeal to Matter of Fact and Common Sense. To my daughter Sarah Ann Young, 2nd. volumn of Clark's Commentary. To my daughter Martha Adkison, the 4th. vol. of Clarks Commentary. To my son Andrew Young, the remaining part of all of my printed books either now in my possession or loaned out to my neighbors."

George Masingbird--appraisment 1838.

Dr. Adam Clark's Commentary on the Scriptures-----$9.

Dr. " " Sermons, Watson's Wesley

Life of Adam Clark, A number of Methodist Magazines, A quantity of newspapers. The newspapers and magazines were not named.

Joseph Wooddell--1842, Sundry books, Harvey's Meditations 2 vols. Walkers Dictionary, Elements of Useful Knowledge, Kentucky Harmony.

Preston Wooddell------History of the United States, 6 books, 1 Hymn Book, Bible , Arithmetic.

William R. Moore--bill of sale-- 1865. Key to Ray's Arithmetic, Grammar, McGuffeys Third Reader, Rays Algebra, Natural Phillosaphy, Conquests of the Bible, Medical Chemistry, Speller and Definer, Davies Surveying, Mitchels Geography, Phillosaphy and History, Walkers Dictionary, Tradesmans Companion Mechanics Companion, One lot of books and pamphlets.

James Paine----1857---Medical Examiner, Days Algebra, Turners Chemistry, four vols. Thompsons Chemistry, Latin Reader, Elements of Bottany, Reed's Essays, Two Music Books, One lot of old books.

George Poage-----1855, 1 Confession of Faith, 2 Hymn Books, 1 Smiths Grammar, 20 other bobks.

John Dilley------1856, One book case, History of the United States, Arithmetic.

Samuel Whiting---1856, Testament, Bible, Hymn Books, Life of Wesley, Four other books.

John Sharp------Book case and books.

Soloman Conrad---Bible Pictorial History-value--$10.

One lot of other books.

William Harris--1861, One lot of books.

Henry Moffett Poage--1863, One lot of books,

Pictorial History of the U.S.

James W.Ruckman------15 books.

Edward Curby---------One lot of books.

William Wanless------One lot of books.

William A. Yeager----One lot of books.

Henry Yeager--------2 Singing Books.

One lot of other books.

William Kellison---Book case and books.

William McLaughlin--1866---One lot books.

James L. Sharp----One lot books.

George Kerr-------11 books.

James E. Courtney--1866--18 books.

Solomon Arbogast----One lot of books.

Henrietta Galford---- " "

Samuel Gay----------6 books.

Abraham Hill----1871, 4 vols. Clark's Commentaries

Cooks Notes on the Bible.

Morning Exercises,
History of Romania,
Wesleys Sermons,
Nine other books.

William Kelley--- One lot of books, 1 Doctor Book.

Daniel Kerr---- -1857, 7 books, Family Bible, Dictionary.

John Slavens-----History of the Devil and Others.

William M. Duffield-----1839---Book case and books.

James Lewis---1841--------One lot of books.

Moore McNeel-----1843----12 books.

Anthony Callison--------1 Family Bible, Map of Greece, History of Greece, Sundry old books.

Robert C. Warwick ---1845----One lot of books.

John Sutton--------One Bible and three other books.

George Puffinbarger-----Nine books.

John McNeel-----1848----One lot of books.

William Edmiston---1849---Four vols. Fetchers Works, 1 lot books.

John Arbogast------- One lot books to Margaret Arbogast.

Arthur Grimes ------One lot books.

Jacob Slavens--------" "

Richard Hudson--------History of the United States, 1 lot books.

Catherine Rhea-----1856--- One lot books.

Moses Arbogast----1857----7 books.

From----Court Records

"Mrs. Mary V. Warwick(Jacob) had a well supplied library of books in the nicest style bindings, and she made good use of them, too.

George Kee, who came to America about 1780, read a great deal. He had a copy of John Locke's "The Human Understanding. He had read and re-read it until it was worn out, and he was unable to get another copy. He not only read a great deal but reflected on what he did read, and could converse fluently and intelligently on what ever subject was to be discussed in books or the public journals. He was the first person I had ever heard say any thing about John Locke. Mr. Kee was anxious for me to read the book, so it turned out that one of the first books that I looked for in the college library was this book, In subsequent years when attending lectures, I found that one of the ablest lecturers did not seem as familiar with Locke as did my old friend in his mountain home. Georgw Kee came to Pocahontas as a peddler. Aaron Kee, a relative, furnished him some goods and sent him to this county to dispose of them. He became acquainted with John Jordan who had been in that business before him, and Jordan had him make his home with him. Mr Kee claimed to be an Associate Reform Presbyterian, commonly known as the Seceders or the Covenanters. It was a blessing to our county to have such a person ident fied with its history.

William Baxter of Edray was born in 1808. From early boyhood he manifested a great fondness for reading, and he improved his available opportunities very studiously. His father

John Baxter owned the largest and most select library then in the county, and william read most of the books. At an early age he began teaching and was one of the most popular teachers of his day. Isaac Moore was fond of books and was anxious to become a good scholar. He diligently improved his opportunities and with such assistance as he received from an old field school teacher he mastered the three R's. Fortunately for him Colonel John Baxter, a near neighbor, had what is believed to have been the largest and best collection of books in the county, probably as many as 100 volumes-history, travel, fiction, and poetry. He had use of these books at will, and thus his taste for reading was in a measure gratified until he could procure ample reading elsewhere."

From---History of Pocahontas

Andrew Price in the 1926 Blue Book, writes that about 1886 H. Rider Haggard's "She" was very popular. It was a fantastic tale of adventure. He says that he once took a copy to his boarding place where he was teaching. A hired hand picked up the book in the morning and spent the day reading instead of helping to get in the corn as he had been hired to do. The farmer was quite indignant. He further writes " In those days a great many wise men could not read or write. Their fine minds had been developed by thought and observation, perhaps in their narrow lines to greater heights than if they had been educated. But they had missed much pleasure and satisfaction. The advent of county papers(1883) and free schools made the art of reading more or

less universal, but it was the moving pictures that made young and enthusiastic readers. I can remember the time when habitual readers were regarded as queer. "He has read so many books that he has injured his mind," That was agreed to in solemn conclave around the stove in the village store, and many a worthy man and high class citizen has thanked God that he had not become an addict to reading."

July 8, 1940

I contacted Calvin W. Price this morning concerning the books, magazines etc. He said that they were brought here by the Circuit Riders. The Presbyterian ministers seem to have been the first to come, and they were all well educated, most of them having been educated at Edinburg or Princeton, therefore they were interested in reading matter, and distributed many books, mostly religious, among the people. Many of them were bound with leather and had been published in Edinburg Scotland, a few in London. Then came the Methodist Circuit Rider and the Baptist Missionary, not so well educated, but they brought in John Wesley's books especially his book on Medicine and his Sermons. Then in the 1830's the Americal Bible Society and the American Tract Society sent to this county salesmen who sold hundreds of books.

Chapter

Mr. Price thinks there were very few magazines and newspapers, and if there were they were also brought in by the ministers on the above mentioned societies. He also told me that Mr. William Gilmer has some of the old books from the John Baxter library. Perhaps I can get the names of them some day when I am out that way.